

Environment Committee
Connecticut General Assembly
Legislative Office Building
300 Capitol Ave. Hartford, CT 06106

To the esteemed members of the Environment Committee:

I am writing you in support of H.B. 5080. The current Sunday hunting ban originates from the spectrum of blue laws that no longer serve the best interests of the citizenry of Connecticut. The list of “blue laws” restricting Sunday activities have already been systematically removed from the legislative record as their relevance has waned.

This bill will help allow the DEEP to more comprehensively manage wildlife across the state in accordance with their wildlife management goals. Currently the law prevents a landowner from providing bow hunters (including themselves) opportunities, that will continue to be managed at a macro level with the deer lottery and license limits, on their own properties during normal hunting hours on Sundays.

Currently the scheduled hunting hours, and season dates, adversely restrict regularly employed bow hunters to very few opportunities to enjoy this pastime. Most individuals are limited to only hunting on the few Saturdays that are available during the scheduled seasons. In addition to doubling the opportunities for resident hunters who are regularly employed, this bill will provide additional incentive for out-of-state bow-hunters to come to Connecticut for full weekend hunting trips. This revenue is being lost to neighboring states that do not have the Sunday hunting restrictions. This bill would provide benefits to the financial position of the state. Between lodging, transportation, and other tourist/hunter related revenue, this state will see an improvement in both tax revenues as well as local businesses and outfitters receiving increased sales and foot traffic.

Sincerely,

Brian Mowry